



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

6 ILLEGAL ALIENS WORKING AT THE HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE ARRESTED BY ICE

HOMESTEAD, Fla. –Six Mexican nationals working illegally at the Homestead Air Reserve Base were arrested here today by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents.

Three of the six men were identified early this morning by security forces officers assigned to the 482nd Fighter Wing. Officers working at the Air Reserve's main gate noticed irregularities in the documents presented by the three men and called ICE special agents for follow-up.

The men, who are contracted by a Texas-based corporation, were working on a major runway-resurfacing project.

ICE special agents confirmed that the documents presented were fraudulent and conducted a subsequent investigation. Sixty additional employees were identified as working for the Texas-based corporation and an inspection of their documents revealed three other men as being in the country illegally.

"Identifying vulnerabilities in our critical infrastructure sites is an ICE priority," said John Paletti, acting special agent-in-charge of ICE's Miami office. "ICE, along with its DOD partners, will continue working together to neutralize any existing vulnerabilities in our nation's critical infrastructure."

"Security forces personnel displayed exceptional diligence in detecting these individuals and ensuring the security of the Homestead Air Reserve Base and our workers," said Randall G. Falcon, commander for the 482nd Fighter Wing. "We value the cooperation between ICE and the 482nd Fighter Wing security forces in promptly dealing with this matter."

All of those arrested today have been placed into administrative removal proceedings. The investigation into the case is ongoing.

In accordance with ICE's homeland security mission, ICE agents prioritize worksite enforcement efforts by focusing on investigations related to critical infrastructure, national security and employers who engage in egregious criminal violations.

Over the past few years, ICE agents have conducted several nationwide operations designed to remove illegal aliens found working at some of the nation's most sensitive worksites, including airports, nuclear power plants, chemical plants and defense facilities.

At U.S. commercial airports alone, ICE has identified more than 5,800 unauthorized airport workers, arrested more than 1,100 unauthorized alien workers, and obtained 775 criminal indictments.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security, responsible for the enforcement of border, economic, infrastructure and transportation security laws. ICE seeks to prevent acts of terrorism by targeting the people, money and materials that support terrorist and criminal activities.